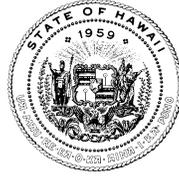


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND OCEAN, MARINE
RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**HR 157 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS TO COMMIT TO
PROVIDING HOUSING FIRST FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN BENEFICIARIES**

March 20, 2018

Aloha Chairs Brower & Ing and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this resolution urging DHHL to commit to providing housing first for native Hawaiian beneficiaries. DHHL appreciates that this resolution acknowledges the history of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) and its purpose of restoring the cultural link between Native Hawaiians and the land, but respectfully requests that the 5th and 6th whereas clauses be deleted. Nearly 10,000 leases have been awarded statewide including 8,373 residential leases, 1,095 agricultural leases, and 410 pastoral leases in direct contradiction to the assertion in the 5th whereas clause that “the prevailing method of granting agricultural lots or turnkey development is a broken ‘one size fits all’ approach.” In addition, the statement that DHHL provides “beneficiaries with unusable land, houses far away from jobs and economic centers, and often failing to provide housing or lots altogether,” fails to acknowledge that the lands set aside under the HHCA are largely in remote or rural areas with less than 5% of the total inventory designated for residential use. Additional resources like land in a more suitable location, funding, and staff are critical to serving DHHL’s beneficiaries.

Despite this problematic language, DHHL supports the intent of this resolution if it is aimed at fulfilling the obligation under Article XII, Section 2 of the State Constitution which provides in relevant part that the “State and its people do further agree and declare that the spirit of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act looking to the continuance of the Hawaiian homes projects for the further rehabilitation of the Hawaiian race shall be faithfully carried out.” DHHL is committed to working with the State and federal government in serving native Hawaiian beneficiaries to realize this Constitutional mandate.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

HR-157

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:32:41 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu supports HR157. Started in 1918 by our founder Jonah KĀ«hiĀ• Kalaniana'ole, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act established important objective, to address the housing needs of our Hawaiian people. Please pass HR157. Mahalo.

HR-157

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:11:28 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HR-157

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:07:53 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

We STRONGLY OPPOSE this resolution, on the following basis: 1.) The State has failed to sufficiently identify whether or not the so-called "Native Hawaiians" who are homeless, are in-fact "native Hawaiians" as defined by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920; 2.) Even if the State were able to identify native Hawaiians who are homeless, did the homeless individuals apply to become Homesteaders? If they did, then they must wait like everyone else who is on the list. If they didn't, then they must apply like everyone else & wait like everyone else; 3.) There is no reliable information as to how many native Hawaiians are homeless, since anyone who is homeless self reports that they are "Native Hawaiian", with no evidence that they are, in fact, Native Hawaiian, especially native Hawaiian as defined by the HHCA; 4.) DHHL has their own Kuleana. DHHL is not a tool for the State to use to dump its homeless problems. DHHL has its own set of problems, it doesn't need to incur the States' problem of trying to solve the homeless issue.

CAVEAT: THIS IS A BAD RESOLUTION & WILL BE CHALLENGE IN THE COURTS IF IT IS PASSED

HR-157

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:37:24 PM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill for Native Hawaiians as defined by the HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT.

LATE

HR-157

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:41:20 AM

Testimony for HSG on 3/20/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Support intent of HR157, however, recommend deletion of 5th and 6th whereas clauses for the reasons stated by the Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands testimony: "Nearly 10,000 leases have been awarded statewide including 8,373 residential leases, 1,095 agricultural leases, and 410 pastoral leases in direct contradiction to the assertion in the 5th whereas clause that "the prevailing method of granting agricultural lots or turnkey development is a broken 'one size fits all' approach." In addition, the statement that DHHL provides "beneficiaries with unusable land, houses far away from jobs and economic centers, and often failing to provide housing or lots altogether," fails to acknowledge that the lands set aside under the HHCA are largely in remote or rural areas with less than 5% of the total inventory designated for residential use. Additional resources like land in a more suitable location, funding, and staff are critical to serving DHHL's beneficiaries."